

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A communication device, the device comprising:

a data processor;

a transmission component coupled to the data processor, wherein the transmission component includes a transmit bandwidth;

a reception component coupled to the data processor;

a data output component coupled to the data processor;

an audio and video capture component coupled to the data processor, the audio and video capture component capturing audio information, video information or both audio and video information associated with a user; and

a user-selectable transmit control configured to set the transmit bandwidth from a range between a high setting of transmitting real-time audio and video and a low setting of not transmitting information, the range further including:

a setting of transmitting a dynamic avatar animation derived from data from the audio and video capture component; and,

a setting of transmitting a dynamic pure abstract animation derived from data from the audio and video capture component, such that a remote user is provided with an indication of the user's desire to communicate before the remote user establishes a two-way communication link with the user.

16. (New) The communication device of claim 15, wherein if the audio and video capture component captures audio and video information indicating presence of the user, the user-selectable control and transmission component are further configured to automatically transmit a signal that provides an indication of the user's presence.

17. (New) The communication device of claim 15, wherein the dynamic pure abstract animation derived from data from the audio and video capture component is a bouncing ball.

18. (New) The communication device of claim 15, wherein the dynamic pure abstract animation derived from data from the audio and video capture component is a color that changes based on changes in the transmit bandwidth.

19. (New) The communication device of claim 15, wherein the data output component includes a display bandwidth and comprises:

a display component and an audio output component, wherein the display component includes a display region, and

a user-selectable output control coupled to the data output component, the user-selectable display control configured to set the display bandwidth from a display range between a high display setting of displaying in the display region real-time video and a low display setting of not displaying information, the display range further including a first display setting of displaying in the display region a dynamic avatar animation derived from information received from the remote user and a second display setting of displaying in the display region a dynamic pure abstract animation derived from information received from the remote user.

20. (New) The communication device of claim 19, wherein the display component further comprises a bezel display region, the bezel display region displaying captured video information associated with the user.

21. (New) The communication device of claim 15, wherein the display component comprises:

multiple display regions, each having a corresponding display bandwidth; and

multiple user-selectable display controls, each coupled to the corresponding display region, each user-selectable display control configured to set the corresponding display bandwidth from a display range between a high display setting of displaying in the corresponding display region real-time video and a low display setting of not displaying information, the display range further including a first display setting of displaying in the corresponding display region a dynamic avatar animation derived from information received from the remote user and a second display setting of displaying in the corresponding display region a dynamic pure abstract animation derived from information received from the remote user.

22. (New) The communication device of claim 22, wherein the display component further comprises:

multiple bezel display regions, each bezel display region displaying captured video information associated with the user.

23. (New) A method of enabling communication between multiple users, the method comprising:

capturing information associated with a user;

receiving a user-selected level of privacy;

processing the information to produce transmit information based on the user-selected level of privacy, wherein the transmit information comprises one of the group of real-time video information, cartooned video information, reduced resolution video information, audio information, haptic information, and abstract representation information; and

transmitting the transmit information to a remote user, such that the remote user is provided with an indication of the user's status before the remote user establishes a two-way communication link with the user.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the information associated with a user includes audio information, and wherein the transmit information comprises of one of the group of audio information, haptic information, and abstract representation information.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
receiving information associated with the remote user, the information comprising one of the group of real-time video information, cartooned video information, reduced resolution video information, and abstract representation information; and
displaying the information to the user.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the audio information comprises bird-related noises or water-related noises.

27. (New) A communication device, the device comprising:
capture means for capturing video data associated with a user;
process means for processing the captured video data associated with the user;
user-configurable means for configuring the processing means from a range between a high setting of processing the captured video data associated with the user to produce real-time video and a low setting of processing the captured video data associated with the user to not produce information, the range further including an intermediate range comprising processing the captured video data associated with the user to produce a dynamic avatar animation; and
transmit means for transmitting the processed captured data associated with the user, such that a remote user is provided with an indication of the user's status before the remote user performs a next action associated with the user.

28. (New) The communication device of claim 27, further comprising:
receive means for receiving data associated with the remote user;
second user-configurable means for configuring the process means to process the
received data; and
display means for displaying the processed received data associated with the
remote user.